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**TABLE
TENNIS
DIGEST**

Official Magazine

OF THE

LIVERPOOL & DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE

Table Tennis

All correspondence
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Digest

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D. M. Foulis

W. Stamp

A. Montgomery

COMMENT

The new season brings a number of changes in the League, and some of these directly involve the "*Digest*."

We have acquired a new cover which, without doubt, adds considerably to the general appearance of the magazine, and secondly we have managed to increase our size to 24 pages. This will enable us to cover the League's activities in more detail, and also it is hoped to give space for articles of general interest.

The promotion of a handicap singles is a most praiseworthy venture, but it came as something of a surprise to discover that many years ago, a similar competition was run, with the finals staged during the Merseyside Open. It is an unique opportunity for the average player to meet one of the "stars" and to have a reasonable chance of success.

In one important respect, we look this season for a marked improvement. In 1950-51, on no fewer than 61 occasions, teams failed to fulfil their fixtures, and further to this, in matches actually played there were 110 instances of players failing to put in an appearance. This is obviously not good enough, and it is to be hoped that these figures will be drastically reduced this year.

If, however, everyone pulls their weight, this should be a great season. There are more clubs and players than ever before, and the "*Digest*" will endeavour to serve the interests of all in any way that it can.

Letters and opinions will always be welcome, for one of the most important functions of this paper is to give opportunity to all to air their views, so it is up to you to make the fullest use of your own magazine.

On another page you find a ranking list of women players in the League, compiled by Mr. J. D. Loughrey, the League's statistician, from his mass of records. They have not been given official blessing by the Management Committee, as he himself stresses, but we publish it from an interest point of view.

From the Secretary's Desk.

HANDICAP SINGLES WILL BE FEATURE OF NEW SEASON

By W. STAMP.



The commencement of our 26th season shows a steady increase in both clubs and teams. Our strength is now 84 and 168 respectively, comprising 14 Divisions and Regions which, at your wish, have reverted to the pre-war strength of 12 teams each without extending the season, due to a more compact arrangement of the fixtures.

While we have lost a few clubs, we have gained 18 newcomers and hope their association with us will be a long and happy one. I extend a very cordial welcome to Beauclair, Catholic Metropolitan, Harold House, Holly Mount, Leyfield, Linnets, Litherland, Lofters, Lussac, P.A.N.T.O., R.A.F. Movements, St. John's (Birkenhead), St. Joseph's C.Y.M.S., Vagabonds, Vauxhall, Warbreak Moor, Wavertree Labour and Old Xaverians.

The Management Committee appreciate that it will be sad news that there will be no MERSEY-SIDE OPEN this year, due to the impossibility of obtaining a suitable hall for the preliminaries and the Philharmonic Hall for the finals, but as we have always set a very high standard, we feel that in fairness to our own players, as well as competitors who travel long distances, that unless we can offer the best conditions we are justified in not staging the Championships. We will be back in November, 1952.

The "Maxwell Fyffe" and "D. M. Foulis" Handicap Singles competitions should, in some measure, compensate our own members, and we will be visited by some of the leading players of the Country, as we are staging a County Championship match at the Y.M.C.A., Mount Pleasant, on Friday, December 14th, when Lancashire play Warwickshire.

The highlight of the season will be an international match, ENGLAND v. WALES at the Philharmonic Hall on Saturday, January 19th, 1952, when it is hoped that the English team will include most of the players who will be travelling to India for the World's Championships on February 1st—10th. Make a note of these dates in your diary and in due time your secretary will receive particulars of block bookings to be made for your Club.

Our coaching scheme has proceeded during the close season with Ted Rumjahn in charge of the following six players, Misses Gladys Brown (Bibby's), Lil Rimmer (Bibby's), Pat Spranger (Bohemians) and Messrs. Harry Davies (Bootle Y.M.C.A.), Gordon Exell (Wallasey Y.M.C.A. Juniors) and Arthur Jones (Rafers). The course ended on September 26th and the Management will shortly consider a further extension of the scheme.

Important : Read this pamphlet circulated by E.T.T.A.

THE SERVICE RULE

Law 10.—A Good Service.

The service shall begin by the server projecting the ball by hand only, without imparting of spin, vertically up into the air. The ball shall then be struck so that it touch first the server's court and then, passing directly over or around the net, touch the striker-out's court.

The free hand, while in contact with the ball in service, shall be open flat and horizontal, with the fingers straight and together, thumb free, and the ball resting on the palm without being cupped or pinched by the fingers.

At the moment of impact of the racket on the ball in service, the ball shall be behind the end line of the server's court and between an imaginary continuation of the side lines.

Knotty Point 6. Interpretation.

Umpires will remember that Law 10 is not intended to impose on the server an exact geometrical pattern, but to prevent attempts to secure advantage by either evasion of the Rule or general careless disregard. The free hand must not turn over or move sideways.

This service law is in force throughout the table tennis world, and must be observed in all organised play by clubs and individuals affiliated to the E.T.T.A. Although the wording quoted above, which came into force at the beginning of the 1951-52 season, is different from the previous version of the law, there has been no change in the purpose of the rule or in the actions required in serving. The wording has been altered only to make the rule more easily understood and applied.

The object of the "flat hand" part of the rule is to place on the server the responsibility for showing that any spin on his service comes solely from the racket. If the service is correctly made, there can be no possibility of any spin resulting from the action of the free hand. To make a service correctly, these points must be observed:—

The hand must be open flat and horizontal.

The fingers must be straight and together.

The thumb must be free.

The ball must start resting on the palm, not cupped or pinched by the fingers.

The ball must be projected vertically up into the air.

The last point is very important, and a common source of difficulty. The knotty point interpretation means that, while a player is expected to take reasonable care to project the ball vertically upwards, a slight divergence from the exact geometrical vertical need not be penalised.

On the other hand, a style of service that deliberately projects the ball out of the vertical, or careless indifference that produces the same result, usually gives the server some advantage, whether he realises this or not. Such services must be penalised immediately; umpires must not wait for the offence to be repeated, nor are they empowered to give any warnings. They must operate the rule strictly and stop the offence at once.

Many complaints have been received about local neglect or flagrant violation of the service rule, and once again the co-operation of all players and officials is requested to see that the rule is strictly observed. Do not ignore it even in practising. It is just as much part of the game as any other rule, and if you do not observe it at practice you may forget it and lose points in matches.

Don't Be Parochial!

The Table Tennis Digest aims to give you all the news that happens in our own League but we have not the space to touch on anything that happens in the great big world outside. This job is adequately done by "TABLE TENNIS," the official magazine of the E.T.T.A.

This publication not only gives you all the news of what is happening in this country and abroad, but your own League funds benefit from a discount allowed on a large bulk order.

We are still a long way off our target for orders, and apart from members placing their own orders, we feel there should be a copy available in every Club headquarters. What about it Secretaries?

The subscription rates are 5/6 a year (9 issues), post free, and orders, together with remittance, should be sent to Mr. K. Baldock, 104 Manor Road, Wallasey, on receipt of which he will immediately forward you the September and October issues.

CHAMPIONSHIP WILL BE KEEN

Welcome to Bibby's and Acacia, last season's Second Division leaders and runners-up, on their entry into the premier division, and here's hoping that each of the twelve teams will have an enjoyable season. Even if all our teams cannot be world beaters I think we can all safely look forward to a good season.

After strenuous efforts Acacia have secured new and spacious headquarters, with two tables, near to the Hoylake baths. I am sure everybody in the division will join me in saying that we hope their enforced wanderings are ended at last. Though Acacia are not many in numbers, the registered players seem a united company, and that's a worthwhile asset for any club.

From what I have gathered of the playing strengths of the various teams, it would seem that there may be a closer race for the championship this season and more exciting matches as the season progresses. Some familiar faces will have vanished altogether while others will appear above new colours.

Well blended.

Generally the teams have the appearance of a useful blending of experience coupled with the more youthful players who will probably readily acquire their team mates' steadiness before March, 1952 arrives.

Both Rafters teams are changed a little from last season's line-up, with Peter Morley back from the Forces in the "A" team and Doug Ridgeway, the former Balfour stalwart, in the Rafters team. Ronnie Rumjahn, as well as Peter and Ted Rumjahn, will be fully available this season, although A. Linforth is out temporarily with a hand injury and Ron Grayson, who is studying hard, can only appear occasionally as reserve. These two will be badly missed by Rafters, as also will be Vic Chesham, who has signed up with the Second Division side, Livex.

George Williams' withdrawal from Balfour's First Division teams after his long participation in their fortunes, is to be regretted and his well-known happy face will be missed. But, as ever, Balfour has immense reserve strength from which to draw—can I hear some club secretaries saying "Lucky blighters?" Dennis Caldwell's "push-

ing" will also be missing this season as he is now doing National Service in the Forces, but as usual with the club, when one player goes another pops into his place. Caldwell's position has been taken over by another old friend, Ken Harold, no less a master of defence and defiance, and from what I hear very much on top of his form at the moment.

Bert Catterall has left Liverpool, to the detriment of the Oakhill club, but their first team of Oakes, Boyle, Read, Ross and Dancaster, is a useful one with hopes of fair success.

The team with the greatest change in the division is undoubtedly Homecroft. Only one member remains of the side which surprised many last season by finishing second to Balfour. He is Roy Jones but he has been joined by four other players of strength—two of whom are the former Birkenhead Y.M.C.A. players, Don Hobbs and Rimmer. I don't think I will be far out if I say that they will be strong challengers to any ideas Balfour may have of repeating their success, which, of course, is all to the good.

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Hard Promotion Fight Ahead

The increase in the numbers of teams in the various divisions has given the League the opportunity of making our division into a strong and evenly-balanced one. We can expect many hard-fought matches and a very close race for the top positions and promotion to the First Division.

Forecasting is always an onerous occupation in normal circumstances but when many of the teams will be meeting this season for the first time in addition to the customary changes in teams, it becomes even more difficult. Of our twelve sides only Bohemians, Bootle Y.M.C.A., Hoylake Y.M.C.A. and I.C.I. field unchanged teams, while the remainder have at least one or two new faces.

Balfour "B" have a strong all-round team in the usual Balfour tradition, headed by George Williams, B. Townsend (who played for Liverpool "B" last season) and D. Sayer, former

Wavertree Community Centre player and winner of the South Region singles championship last season.

Also promoted from last season's Fourth Division are St. Michael's, and although they have lost their former No. 1, Gower, they should still prove a difficult combination to beat.

Tough Opponents.

Wallasey Y.M.C.A. Juniors always improve as the season progresses, proof indeed of the value of practice and enthusiasm, and have Andree Jones and Gordon Exell of last season's team. They will fight all the way before acknowledging defeat.

Their senior members, Homecroft "A," should also do well, for Ken Frost will be leading a useful side which includes A. Lee, a signing from Birkenhead. Also across the water are Birkenhead Y.M.C.A. "A," who have lost players from both their first and second teams and may find it hard to hit the headlines.

Oakhill "A" have lost some of their old stars and will be further weakened later in the season by the departure of Ossie Blenkinsop for Lagos, but I hear that they still have good hopes for a reasonably successful season. It is a bit awkward for me to refer to my new club, Livex, but it would be false modesty to pretend that we do not hope to beat more clubs than beat us.

Anfield "A" have made one or two changes but on the whole are about the same strength as they were last season, while Hoylake Y.M.C.A. have always proved themselves to be a team that never admits defeat until the last point has been played. I.C.I. have strong hopes of improving on their final position of last season.

And now let battle commence! I hope to report many a dour struggle in the forthcoming issues and I should not be surprised if set average proves the deciding factor in the placings of the top teams at the end of the season.

Whitty's

for

TABLE TENNIS

15 BASNETT STREET
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TWELVE SKIPPERS HAVE HOPES

From the four surviving clubs of last season to the eight newcomers we say "welcome to the Third Division." We will not add "may you long be with us" because we know you and, indeed, we too, are all itching to get out, upwards, of course.

This season's line-up flavours strongly of the South Region, with no less than five former members of the section. For three at least, not a great deal of travelling is involved but our usual two over-the-water friends and Burlington, our northern outpost, will have some lengthy trips.

It is distinguished company this season in that we have numbered among us the Forrest and Hyde Cup finalists, three Regional champions and teams representing those four august bodies, the Liverpool City Police, the Corporation Passenger Transport (Westfield), British Railways, whom we gather are the governing body of C.L.C., and our very own North Western Gas Board (Lucem), the latter additionally boasting the services of our Chairman.

Form Runs True.

It is not proposed to nominate possible champions and near champions. A study of the first month's results is usually a far more reliable guide in this game of ours which runs much too true to form, but it is known that there are twelve team captains who have a sneaking feeling that this is their year—at least they all felt that way as they strained at the leash on October 1. Disillusionment, unfortunately, is the lot of half our numbers after but one week, and as you read this no doubt

many are still figuring out just how those vital games were lost.

Making an early visit to Oakhill we found Frank Moore, last year's skipper, still in command but with a completely changed team. True they have not yet hit the high spots and no doubt they will need time to settle down, but providing they do not get discouraged there is talent enough among the newcomers to weld the team into a useful combination. D. Farrell and J. Bleasdale in particular, looked impressive.

The familiar Oakhill warmth of welcome is still the same and the table, with its patent wire edge-shot recorder, and battery of lights will suit all tastes.

The name Balfour has these days come to mean a team that is useful from top to bottom, and I fancy that Balfour "C," last season's East Region champions and holders of the Hyde and Forrest Cups, will make promotion-seekers go all the way, even though they will be without their old No. 1, B. Townsend, now promoted to one of the club's higher teams. They were the only team in the League to finish last season with a 100 per cent.—no mean performance in whatever sphere you are playing.

Incidentally their inclusion in our division will give Lucem the opportunity of getting their revenge for those two very close defeats they suffered in the cup finals. It will be interesting to see whether they can take it.

Kingsway did well in the Fourth Division last season, finishing third, and I have no doubt that they will be keen to keep the Wirral flag to the forefront this term, in addition to aiming at promotion to the Second Division.

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PROMISE OF HARD MATCHES

Hello, Fourth Divisioners, welcome to another table tennis season. Once again the division has a new look due to promotions and an influx of the leading Regional teams, but this season it is even more pronounced as only Port Sunlight Old Boys and Waterloo Dock remain from last season.

Though these two teams may not lead the way in the division, for among the newcomers are some sound "fives," I am sure they will show how to enjoy keenly-fought table tennis matches.

Of the newcomers there is Aigburth from the Second Division, who should be more at home than last season when only their great spirit kept them going among teams of much higher standard. It takes courage to keep going week after week meeting defeat after defeat, and no one will grudge Aigburth, who have incidentally lost a number of players, a share of success this season.

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From the Third Division have come Domestic Mission, whose club has lost an old and valuable leader in Walter Gale, and Rafters "B," the nursery for the renowned teams of the same name in the First Division. Both found it hard going in the division above last season but they are goodly fighters and should be more successful this term.

New Name.

Holly Mount is a new name in the league but is led by an old hand in the person of our former Vice-chairman, Mr. Charles Miles whose "nice work" will give great encouragement to his National Insurance clerks.

From the Regions there are Bohemians "A" and Osterley from the East, Thorndale and Wallasey Juniors "A" from the West, and Wavertree Community Centre "A," with Liverpool Y.M.C.A. from the South.

All these teams finished last season in one of the first three positions of their Regions and will, no doubt, soon feel at home as they will be able to compare their matches with a miniature Hyde Cup Competition. They all had useful teams last season, and should again make the competition keen in the higher sphere.

Teams to watch, I think will be Wallasey Juniors "A" who seem to find an everlasting stream of good young players and Liverpool Y.M.C.A. who I hear, are greatly improved due to close season coaching by Bob Roberts and the guiding hand of Des. Loughrey, who has joined their ranks.

Bohemians "A" are this term without Parr, McKim and Richardson, but I hear that their new No. 1, Geoff Baker, has come on a lot, so that with those two experienced fighters, Joe and Mae Alcock, plus the former Holme Hey player Faulkner, they should make their opponents go all the way.

Thorndale finished close behind Wallasey Juniors "A" last season, which is an indication that they are sound from No. 1 to No. 5.

Many Meet for First Time

Like our counterparts in the Wirral, the Fifth Division is probably the most problematical in the League for in our numbers are teams who have never previously met.

All but two of them have at least a season's experience in the Regions behind them. The exceptions are the Linnets, who, I believe, have a nucleus of seasoned players, and Harold House. We welcome them both.

Harold House were seen around the East Region in the 1949—50 season, but in pre-war days they were a team to be feared by the best and produced many prominent players. Is this their object again?

Of the teams that have come from the Regions four were last season in the South—Aigburth Methodists, Elm Hall Drive, Liverpool Y.M.C.A. "A" and Victoria Park "A"; the North has supplied Bootle Y.M.C.A. "A," English Electric and Linacre and the East, Anfield "B," Cadwa and Taxes—all of which makes us quite a mixed bag for this season at least.

Taking the teams at their face value of last season, I can see some very close games with a tight finish at the season's end, unless one of the clubs pulls a "Johnny Leach" out of the bag.

Linacre are relying on the five musketeers who did useful service for them last season—the Davidson brothers, McGonigal, Tom Larkin and Fred Lacey. They will make formidable opposition to all. Team spirit is also their great inspiration, for they played together in all last season's matches.

English Electric are, of course, led

by your humble servant, and I will have Jack Longstaffe and Gordon Fox, two of last season's stalwarts, with Syd Froud and Eric Smitten. A little twist to Eric's name would make it most appropriate for he is a mighty smiter, while Syd, who is twice his size, is a young giant of promise. All in all we have good hopes.

A secretary with a most unenviable job is Mr. R. Pickup, of Bootle Y.M.C.A. It seems that he organises teams for H.M. Forces. This season he finds that more than a team have been whisked away for National Service. But he is fortunate in another way, for he has a gradely band of youngsters coming along. They seem to breed 'em there.

Good luck to Dan Driscoll (I won the side's first set) and company. A little more experience will improve them a lot.

Although we have left the Regions behind we are in the unique position of having obtained divisional status and the same time keeping our regional advantages. Let it be understood that this covers this season only. Our teams can compete in the Hyde Cup and our players may play in the Regional individual tournaments and the Liverpool Closed Regional Singles, but they cannot be selected for any Region team to play in the inter-Regional competition.

Mr. J. M. Ellison informs me that his club, Elm Hall Drive, is in the drive of that name and not in Penny Lane as the handbook would have you believe.

Don't forget secretaries, send me the gen please.

AFTER THE GAME . . .

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Y.M.C.A JUNIORS' GOOD START

The newly-formed Fifth Division, Wirral, must be one of the most evenly matched in the League. The West Region has been noted for many years for its strength, and some of its best teams are now gathered together in the new division.

Birkenhead Y.M.C.A. Juniors are as strong as ever and we can expect to hear much from them during the season. They certainly made a good start to it by beating Thingwall 6—4 in their first match. Incidentally Thingwall will be at the same strength as they were last season, for they are relying on an unchanged team.

Birkenhead Co-op will begin the season somewhat weaker, owing to the migration of two of their leading players. Nevertheless, they scored a sound victory against St. Joseph's "A," winning 7—3.

Cosco, winners of the West Region Second Division last season, are strengthened by the return from the Forces of E. Morrell, but the only change reported by Burrowdale is the introduction of Chris Nicholls to the first team.

R.A.F.A. stronger.

Hoylelake Y.M.C.A. "A" will not, I fancy, be far away when the honours are handed out at the end of the season, despite the fact that they lost on their own table to Birkenhead R.A.F. Association to the tune of 8—2 in their first game. Don McNaught's club has been strengthened by the inclusion of Bill Lowe from Birkenhead Co-op, and Ted Morris, from Cosco, and they are out for blood.

St. Peter's, Birkenhead, will be fielding the same team as last season and they can be depended on to put up a good show although they went down 7—3 to Thorndale "A" at home. The latter, Third West winners last season, include Phyl O'Connell, the West Region women's singles champion.

Despite periodical postings, R.A.F. West Kirby always seem to be able to turn out a team better than most, and this year will be no exception.

St. Joseph's are full of confidence, despite losing their first match, and are sure that their players have the ability to keep them to the fore.

Time, of course, will prove whether some of the hopes that have been

expressed to me are well founded, but in conclusion I wish all clubs and players in the division a very successful season.

The hottest news so far is the signing of Ken Davenport by R.A.F. Associa'n, Birkenhead. Ken who was a regular 1st division player with Birkenhead Y.M.C.A. will be an asset to 5th Wirral if he can spare time from his other activities to play regularly. The R.A.F. club, complete with Ken, visited Cosco on 16th October where they notched their third successive win by a handsome margin of 8-2. Wins for R.A.F.A. were two each for Davenport, Lowe, Morris and Nickel. Cosco's two were by Brown and Tozer.

Thingwall entertained R.A.F. West Kirby on 15th October, R.A.F. winning 7—3. Only one West Kirby player played in the first match of the season but, such is the wealth of talent available, they do not falter. R.A.F. winners were White (2) one of the best defensive players in the division, Dunks (1), Chandler (2) and Beech (2). Thingwall winners were Blundell, Faulkner and Miss Heaps.



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Balance in New Look Homecroft

By J. H. C. Hughes.

The new look Homecroft team—or should I say Wallasey Y.M.C.A., with only Roy Jones of last season's team still playing? proved much too strong for African Oil Mills at Wallasey, and had a comfortable win of 10—0, 20 games to 2.

Their policy of giving youth, in the persons of Hill and Stredder, a chance, plus two new signings, Hobbs and Rimmer from Birkenhead Y.M.C.A., is one that looks as if it may carry them to honours by the end of the season. They are a well-balanced side, with Ken Frost in reserve, and when their Nos. 4 and 5 learn to curb their impetuosity they will be very hard to beat, especially in their own rather small room.

I was impressed by the play of Don Hobbs, but though he was the only player on the winning team to drop a game, all round his play was very sound and his match against Frank Varty was the high spot of the evening.

Running comments.

Roy Jones, wearing his Liverpool badge, gave his usual display of fierce hitting and caused John Coveney to give vent to a series of queer noises which were found to be "good shot."

The new East Region secretary, D. Power, gave a very entertaining display of acrobatics with a vocal commentary which, though not productive of winning points, certainly livened up the proceedings.

It was good to see everyone carrying out the new service rule and to hear the visiting captain drawing attention of one of the home players to the latter part of Rule 19, a rule which some present did not seem to have read.

All in all a good start to the season for Homecroft and though the African Oil skipper jokingly said they were not pot-hunting this season, I am sure if cups were given for playing the game in the right spirit, he and his side would be at the receiving end.

PEN PERSONALITIES

Misses L. and K. May.

It was seeing an exhibition match that first fired the ambitions of the twin sisters Lillian and Kathleen May, now more familiarly known as Pinkie and Bluey, to aim at stardom in the table tennis world. Previously their games had consisted of playing with father and mother on the dining-room table.

Once they had the itch, however, the twins set about learning the game properly. They joined the East Waver-tree club and had coaching from both Harry Knibbs and Bobby Roberts, but despite their great similarity in appearance opponents soon learned to distinguish between them by their style of play—Bluey was the aggressor and Pinkie the defender.

When Rafters were formed in 1941 Pinkie and Bluey were founder members and during their ten years' association with the club they have not only been prominent as playing members but have done more than their share as club workers, on the committee and in turn as secretary. To-day Bluey is the club's chairman.

Both in final.

Bluey's first appearance in an open tournament was a notable one. In partnership with Peggy Franks she won the women's doubles at Hull and was runner-up with Eric Wall, in the mixed doubles. She was Liverpool champion in 1946, when she beat her sister in the final and together they have won the doubles title on several occasions.

They have represented both Lancashire and Liverpool and were members of the team which made Liverpool history by reaching the final of the Rose Bowl. To Pinkie has fallen the distinction of being the only player to receive the Bartholomew Award for services rendered to both her club and the League.

But table tennis is not the twins only sporting love. They are members of Fairlawn Tennis Club, are both hockey players, Pinkie being captain of the Royal Assurance team, and were formerly keen horsewomen.

LEAGUE

up to Week End

First Division

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Homecroft	3	3	0	0	24	6	6
Balfour	3	2	0	1	22	8	5
Balfour "A"	3	2	1	0	17	13	4
Rafters "A"	3	1	0	2	17	13	4
Oakhill	3	2	1	0	16	14	4
Rafters	3	1	1	1	16	14	3
Anfield	3	1	1	1	15	15	3
Bibby's	3	1	2	0	14	16	2
African Oil ...	3	1	2	0	11	19	2
15th Crosby ...	3	1	2	0	9	21	2
B'head Y.M.C.A.	3	0	2	1	11	19	1
Acacia.....	3	0	3	0	8	22	0

Second Division

Balfour "B"	3	3	0	0	20	10	6
H'lake Y.M.C.A.	3	3	0	0	20	10	6
I.C.I.	3	2	0	1	23	7	5
Bootle Y.M.C.A.	3	2	1	0	20	10	4
Bohemians ...	3	2	1	0	17	13	4
Homecroft "A"	3	2	1	0	15	15	4
Anfield "A" ...	3	1	1	1	15	15	3
Livex	3	1	2	0	14	16	2
Oakhill "A" ...	3	0	2	1	11	19	1
St. Micheal's ...	3	0	2	1	9	21	1
Wallasey Jnrs.	3	0	3	0	11	19	0
B'head Y.M. "A"	3	0	3	0	5	25	0

Third Division.

Cheshire Lines	3	3	0	0	23	7	6
Lucern.....	3	2	0	1	21	9	5
Victoria Park	3	1	0	2	20	10	4
Burlington	3	2	1	0	19	11	4
St. Joseph's (W.)	3	2	1	0	18	12	4
Kingsway	3	1	0	2	17	13	4
Wavertree C.C.	3	1	1	1	17	13	3
Balfour "C" ...	3	1	1	1	15	15	3
L.P.A.S.	3	0	1	2	11	19	2
Dunlop	3	0	2	1	10	20	1
Westfield	3	0	3	0	5	25	0
Oakhill "B" ...	3	0	3	0	4	26	0

Fourth Division.

Thorndale ...	3	3	0	0	27	3	6
L'pool Y.M.C.A.	3	3	0	0	26	4	6
Waterloo Dock	3	3	0	0	18	12	6
Port S'light O.B.	3	2	1	0	20	10	4
Bohemians "A"	3	2	1	0	19	11	4
Holly Mount	3	1	2	0	16	14	2
Rafters "B" ...	3	1	2	0	16	14	2
Domestic Miss.	3	1	2	0	11	19	2
Osterley	3	1	2	0	11	19	2
W'tree C.C. "B"	3	1	2	0	10	20	2
Aigburth.....	3	0	3	0	4	26	0
W'sey Jnrs. "A"	3	0	3	0	2	28	0

Fifth Division (Liverpool).

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Elm Hall Drive	3	3	0	0	19	11	6
Linnet	3	3	0	0	19	11	6
English Elec. ...	3	2	1	0	20	10	4
Victoria Pa. "A"	3	1	1	1	17	13	3
Linacre	2	1	1	0	11	9	2
L'pool Y.M. "A"	2	1	1	0	10	10	2
Harold House	1	0	0	1	5	5	1
Cadwa	2	0	1	1	9	11	1
Taxes	2	0	1	1	9	11	1
Anfield "B" ...	2	0	1	1	7	13	1
Aigburth Meths.	3	0	2	1	10	20	1
Bootle Y.M. "A"	2	0	2	0	4	16	0

Fifth Division (Wirral).

R.A.F.A. (B'hd.)	3	3	0	0	25	5	6
R.A.F. (W. K'by)	3	3	0	0	25	5	6
B'head Co-op.	3	3	0	0	19	11	6
B'head Y.M. Jnrs.	3	2	0	1	19	11	5
Burrowdale ...	3	2	1	0	18	12	4
Thorndale "A"	3	2	1	0	16	14	4
H'lake Y.M. "A"	3	1	1	1	13	17	3
Cosco	3	1	2	0	11	19	2
Thingwall	3	0	3	0	11	19	0
Claremont	3	0	3	0	10	20	0
St. J'ph's (W. "A")	3	0	3	0	7	23	0
St. Peter's (B'hd)	3	0	3	0	6	24	0

NORTH REGIONAL

English Elec. "A"	3	3	0	0	26	4	6
Bath Street ...	3	3	0	0	21	9	6
Litherland ...	3	2	1	0	19	11	4
W'loo Dock "A"	3	2	1	0	16	14	4
Burlington "A"	3	2	1	0	15	15	4
Brenka	3	1	1	1	16	14	3
C'lic Met. Club	3	1	1	1	14	16	3
Warbreck Moor	3	1	1	1	12	18	3
Lofters	3	1	2	0	11	19	2
Lofters "A" ...	3	0	2	1	10	20	1
Littlewoods ...	3	0	3	0	10	20	0
Waterloo Park	3	0	3	0	10	20	0

STOP

In the FIRST round of the Hyde Cup (October, 1951), 48 teams have byes, and,

DRAW FOR 2nd ROUND

To be played week commencing

Lucern v. Lucern "A" or Technical Students "A" v. Taxes or Linacre; Elm H O.B.; Linnet "A" v. Rafters "B"; B (Wallasey) v. Cheshire Lines; Thorndale "Y.M.C.A. v. English Electric; Victoria Park v. Cadwa v. Oakhill "B"; Wavertree C.C. v. Vagabonds; R.A.F.A. (Liverpool) v. Balfour "C" v. Birkenhead Co-op.

These tables may not be reproduced, without

E T A B L E S

Ending 20th October

WOMEN'S—Division I.

Balfour	3	3	0	0	22	8	6
Rafters	3	3	0	0	19	11	6
Bootle C.D.	3	2	0	1	20	10	5
Oakhill	3	2	0	1	18	12	5
Bibby's	3	2	0	1	24	6	5
Homecroft	3	1	2	0	14	16	2
Anfield	3	1	2	0	13	17	2
Cheshire Lines	3	1	2	0	12	18	2
Wavertree C.C.	3	0	1	2	11	19	2
Aigburth	3	0	2	1	9	21	1
Littlewood's	3	0	3	0	9	21	0
Rafters "A"	3	0	3	0	9	21	0

WOMEN'S—Division II.

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Bohemians	3	3	0	0	27	3	6
Linnet	3	3	0	0	26	4	6
Lucem	3	2	0	1	21	9	5
Osterley	3	2	0	1	17	13	5
Beauclair	3	1	0	2	19	11	4
Breanka	3	1	1	1	15	15	3
English Elec.	3	1	1	1	13	17	3
Leyfield	3	0	1	2	13	17	2
Littlewoods "A"	3	1	2	0	12	18	2
Port Sunlight	3	0	3	0	7	23	0
Domestic Mission	3	0	3	0	5	25	0
I.C.I.	3	0	3	0	5	25	0

EAST REGIONAL.

Bohemians "B"	3	3	0	0	25	5	6
R.A.F.A. (L'pool)	3	3	0	0	25	5	6
Balfour "D"	3	3	0	0	23	7	6
African Oil "A"	3	2	1	0	19	11	4
Anfield "C"	3	2	1	0	16	14	4
Vagabonds	3	1	1	1	12	18	3
St. Bartholomew's	3	1	2	0	13	17	2
Leyfield	3	0	1	2	12	18	2
Bohemians "C"	3	1	2	0	11	19	2
Old Xaverians	3	0	2	1	10	20	1
R.A.F. M'ments	3	0	3	0	8	22	0
Osterley "A"	3	0	3	0	6	24	0

SOUTH REGIONAL I.

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Tech. Students	3	3	0	0	26	4	6
Livec "A"	3	3	0	0	24	6	6
St. Michael's "A"	3	3	0	0	22	8	6
Linnet "A"	3	2	1	0	20	10	4
Lucem "A"	3	2	1	0	20	10	4
Beauclair	3	2	1	0	16	14	4
Cadwa "A"	3	1	2	0	16	14	2
V'toria Park "B"	3	1	2	0	15	15	2
Ches. Lines "A"	3	1	2	0	10	20	2
W'tree C.C. "B"	3	0	3	0	5	25	0
Aigburth "A"	3	0	3	0	3	27	0
Deaf Inst.	3	0	3	0	3	27	0

SOUTH REGIONAL II.

Panto	3	3	0	0	26	4	6
Lussac	3	3	0	0	25	5	6
Tech. Stud. "A"	2	2	0	0	16	4	4
L'pool Y.M. "B"	3	2	1	0	22	8	4
Vauxhall Sports	2	1	0	1	13	7	3
Linnet "B"	3	1	1	1	16	14	3
Linnet "C"	3	1	1	1	12	18	3
R.A.F.A. (L'pl) A	3	1	2	0	13	17	2
Ches. Lines "B"	3	1	2	0	12	18	2
Wavertree Lab.	3	0	2	1	8	22	1
Leyfield "A"	3	0	3	0	4	26	0
Beauclair "A"	3	0	3	0	3	27	0

WEST REGIONAL I.

R.F. St. Anne's	3	3	0	0	26	4	6
SS. Mary & Paul	3	3	0	0	21	9	6
Creep Inn	3	2	1	0	18	12	4
Thorndale "B"	3	1	1	1	18	12	3
Port Sunlight	3	1	1	1	15	15	3
Wallasey Motors	3	1	1	1	14	16	3
Prenton Meths.	3	1	1	1	13	17	3
Burrowdale "B"	3	1	2	0	13	17	2
Creep Inn "A"	3	1	2	0	13	17	2
Claremont "A"	3	1	2	0	10	20	2
Burrowdale "A"	3	1	2	0	9	21	2
Cosco "A"	3	0	3	0	10	20	0

WEST REGIONAL II.

H'lake Y.M. "B"	3	3	0	0	25	5	6
B'head Boys Cl.	3	3	0	0	22	8	6
R.F. S. Anne's A	3	2	0	1	23	7	5
R.A.F.A. (B'hd) 'A'	3	2	1	0	20	10	4
B'head Co-op. 'A'	3	1	1	1	16	14	3
Y.W.C.A.	3	1	1	1	16	14	3
Woodchurch	3	1	1	1	13	17	3
P. Sunlight "A"	3	1	1	1	13	17	3
St. John's (B'hd)	2	0	1	1	6	14	1
Thingwall "A"	3	0	3	0	9	21	0
R.F. S. Anne's 'B'	3	0	3	0	6	24	0
B'hd Boys Cl. 'A'	2	0	2	0	1	19	0

TOP PRESS.

Lyde Cup (to be played, week commencing 29th Oct.), and, therefore, notification has not been sent.

ROUND OF REDMAN CUP, commencing 5th November, 1951.

Technical Students; Westfield v. Linnet; Technical; Elm Hall Drive or Kingsway v. Port Sunlight "B"; Bath Street v. Thingwall; St. Joseph's; Thorndale "A" v. R.A.F. (West Kirby); Liverpool; Victoria Park v. Harold House or Aigburth Methodists; Wavertree C.C. v. St. Michael's "A"; Claremont v. Port Sunlight; Burlington; Thorndale v. Litherland; etc.

without the authority of the *Table Tennis Digest*.

Return Score Cards Promptly

By Geo. Williams.

The life blood of League records is the score card, and I want to first mention how very important it is that the card should be posted *immediately* after the match—the same evening is preferable, and in most cases possible.

Each month I have to produce league tables, and you will appreciate that without the results of the matches in my possession, this will not be possible. At the time of writing, the end of the first week of the season, eleven score cards are not yet to hand, despite the fact that Rule 25 states that the card must be posted within 24 hours of the end of the match.

Please, let me have all score cards promptly, and then I can produce up-to-the-minute tables for you.

Amendments to rules, which are of course passed at the Annual General Meeting, have a habit of suddenly coming upon us, *in their full implication*, even if we were present when they were passed, and I would like to draw attention to a few of the more important ones.

26 Limit.

How many League matches can you play? Under the revised rule, a total of 26, which means that if you take part in all the League matches for your regular team, you can only assist in four matches for a higher team in your club.

This rule does not effect cup-ties, which are additional to League matches, but in passing, I would remind you that when you have once played for a team in a cup match, you cannot play for a lower team than the one for which you are registered, in the same competition.

I would remind secretaries that their club's ranking list must be kept up-to-date, and any changes effecting the movement of a player to a lower team, must be submitted to me for confirmation. Under the revised ruling, when a player misses four consecutive League matches for the team for which he is registered, he must be placed in a lower team, and another player promoted to the vacated position.

Another important point which is very much overlooked, is that Rule 20 states that teams *shall* consist of five players, but already in the first week of this season three teams have turned up with one player short. This is not only grossly unfair to the opponents, who, in some cases, only have the clubroom for the one night each week and rely upon matches for their games, but is also a breach of the rules.

Incidentally it will be noted that when reserves are played, no alteration on the score card is permissible, but the reserve plays in the position of the missing player.

Finally I would remind club secretaries that when they register new players, the names and addresses must also be sent direct to the League secretary, Mr. Stamp, in order that the "*Table Tennis Digest*" may be forwarded to them. A stamped addressed envelope should always accompany any registration sent to me for the return of the handbook.

Special Note: Will team captains please ensure that score cards are filled up completely and accurately. Out of 73 cards received only eight had been completed correctly.

What Challenge to Balfour?

One look at our handbook and I don't think anyone can doubt that table tennis has come to the fore as a major sport, and that members of the fair sex are doing their share in keeping the game in the news on Merseyside. With the extra matches and Foulis Cup tournament, in addition to our usual programme of special events there won't be any time to catch the 'flu bug this winter.

Table tennis is a sport where the player can look quite as attractive as on the lawn tennis court, and where just the same amount of care should be taken. It is so refreshing to see trim shorts, fresh sports shirts—which can be obtained in such attractive colours—and, last but not least, clean tennis shoes and socks. I hear that another of our senior clubs will soon be sporting attractive badges on their shirts.

May I also take this opportunity of appealing for your support at the inter-city and Rose Bowl matches.

Relieved.

It is difficult to forecast what results this season will bring forth, but I am certain Balfour and Rafterers will welcome any serious challengers.

Anfield and Wavertree C.C. must have breathed a sigh of relief, and will certainly endeavour to finish this season in a less dangerous position. I hear that Anfield have been practising hard all summer, and have played several friendly matches. It is good to hear that their captain and mentor, Mrs. Womphrey, is enjoying better health, and is ready to tackle all comers.

Wavertree C.C. have been unfortunate to lose their No. 1 player, Mrs. Palmer, who has joined the Linnets.

Congratulations to Rafterers "A" and Littlewoods, who earned promotion to the First Division this season, and certainly mean to do all they can to stay there. Rafterers "A" were not the least intimidated when playing their senior team in the first match of the season, and only lost 4-6.

I hear we may have a ladies' team from Burlington next year. It is time we had a trip to Waterloo and Crosby—what about it?

Bibby's will no doubt look to Lilian

Rimmer and Gladys Brown to lead them to victory. With Pat Spranger (Bohemians) they have been members of the League summer coaching school under Ted Rumjahn, and with his tuition and patience, and their own enthusiasm, they have made rapid progress. We look forward to hearing more about this trio in the near future.

The Second Division is rather an unknown quantity as yet, but I wouldn't be surprised if Bohemians, Linnets and Osterley are among the clubs striving for promotion at the end of the season.

Beauclair have signed on Steen Farrell, who should be fighting fit after two holidays in Holland this summer; Andree Williams (ex-Balfour), determined not to be a table tennis widow (George will certainly have his hands full this season), and Mossley Hill's inseparables, Mary Tibbells and Molly Santos.

I believe that English Electric are completely new to competitive table tennis. In their first match against the Linnets, their No. 1, Dot Davies, made a flying start by winning the only two sets for her side. Brenka, also a young team, did well to force Beauclair to a draw in their first match.

The Linnets deserve almost an article to themselves as considerable effort has gone into the organising of the club, and getting new premises ready. I had the pleasure of being a guest at their successful opening last month, and it is hard to believe that what is now a very cosy club was such a shambles six months ago.

Chairman Don Brown and Secretary Irene Sturgeon, together with our other hosts and hostesses, can certainly be proud of their handiwork. There were many old friends present, together with a good sprinkling of new young members, who will no doubt give enthusiastic support.

Our "80 years young" President, Mr. Bartholomew, performed the opening ceremony in his own inimitable way. Don't be a bit surprised to find him a member of the Linnets team, as it is so near his home and I think he is just itching to have a bash again. Eileen Mansell will have pleasant memories of the evening, as she was the lucky winner of a pair of nylons.

St. Annes Are Strong

By N. H. Holland.

There is a decided new look about Division I this season. Only Creep Inn and Wallasey Motors remain from last season and they are joined by nine former Second, Third and Fourth Division teams, plus one newcomer.

At least half the teams look evenly matched and the struggle for points will probably rival the excitement of General Election week.

If one team seems outstanding it is Rock Ferry St. Anne's. With players like F. Kelly, E. McGenity, M. McGhee and J. Doherty available, I shall be surprised if they drop many points or even sets.

Creep Inn welcome their "A" team. Both teams should do well this year, in particular, the first team whose play last season was much better than their final league position would indicate and revealed the benefit of their coaching.

Burrowdale rivalry.

Burrowdale also have double representation in the division and rivalry down at Molyneux Drive reached a climax on October 16 when the "B" team acted as hosts. Writing before the match I daren't risk forecasting the result!

Wallasey Motors will find points easier to collect, especially as several strong reserves are now available through the withdrawal of their "A" team.

Prospects look bright at Belvedere Road. Claremont "A" should give an excellent account of themselves in their new company, while Thorndale "B" will be greatly strengthened by the important new signings for their first and second teams.

If SS. Mary & Paul and Cosco "A" start on the same high note as they finished last season there should be no lack of points to their credit next April.

Port Sunlight were erratic last year and much depends on whether they can avoid frequent team changes this season.

Another much-improved team is Prenton Methodists and their venture into the First Division will undoubtedly raise the standard of their play still further.

May you enjoy all your matches—win, lose or draw—AND THE BEST OF LUCK!

Nine Young Teams

By H. P. Harkness.

The passing of the Youth Division is a great disappointment to those who worked to bring it into being, but plans for its resurrection next year are already being made. Meanwhile, the main youth interest will centre on West Region Division Two, which will be composed of no fewer than nine youth teams, including six from last season's Youth Division and one new team to league play—St. John's, Birkenhead—to whom we extend a hearty welcome.

Attempting to forecast the champions of so drastically reconstituted a division is tricky but my information from the clubs may provide a pointer.

Rock Ferry St. Anne's have upwards of 20 keen players to choose from and should be able to field at least one good team each week, and so should Birkenhead Boys' Club in spite of losing players to military service and evening classes.

Restriction gone.

Thingwall "A" have some new players and, whilst not expecting great things at the start, look forward to improvement later on. Although Y.W.C.A. have lost Derek Whalley and secretary Eric Jones to the Forces, they started the season well and Woodchurch should be much stronger now they are free from age-limit restrictions.

My fancy is that Hoylake Y.M.C.A. "B," who have four of last seasons' Youth championship and Stamp Cup winning team available, plus W. Alcock, former Greasby No. 1, and R.A.F. Association "A," some of whose players have already proved their worth in a higher division, will put up the main challenge for League supremacy. Their first week clash at Birkenhead was a thriller, with Y.M.C.A., perhaps a shade fortunately, taking both points.

Port Sunlight "A," with an almost entirely new team, could upset my predictions but to all our teams, win, lose or draw, may I wish the best of good Table Tennis and good fellowship for the coming season.

Newcomers Show Their Worth

With six new clubs in our Region it was indeed a case of "Come, give us a taste of your quality!" And we certainly got it in the first week of the new season, for two of the newcomers gave us more than a fair sample of their quality.

Litherland had Brenka as the first visitors to their clubroom in Sefton Road and Secretary D. T. Styles must have been overjoyed when they scored a good victory over the Aintree team. Catholic Metropolitan Club, who have two ladies in their team, visited Waterloo Park to come away with the spoils.

Littlewoods were not so fortunate. Their first match took them to Waterloo Dock, but their performance was such that the Railwaymen could only snatch the narrowest possible victory.

Severe Shock.

Warbreck Moor received a nasty shock from English Electric, now represented in the Region by a second string. But having recovered from the blow they have not been slow to appreciate the standard of play they will meet in the Region and have already taken steps to insulate themselves against any repetition.

My two Lofters teams were in opposition to each other—a keen start to the season—and we were thus able to obtain a very useful line on the grading of our players.

The sensation of the first week's matches was undoubtedly provided by Bath Street when they visited Burlington. The Crosby club are another now represented in the Region by a second team, but few would have expected them to go down to Bath Street to the tune of 9—1. The defeat, with Mike Crawford playing at No. 1 and Mrs. Mitchell (*nee* Joyce Cook) at No. 3, would have hit any coupon for six.

We can rightly assume from the first week's results that the loss of Bootle Y.M.C.A., English Electric, Hamilton Mission and Linacre, as well as last season's champions, Burlington, will not find the North Region as badly weakened as was at first thought.

My hopes for our winning the F. L. Forrest Cup have risen and it may well be revealed that our league competition is more balanced than it was last season.

Jack Hughes, our Vice-chairman, will readily agree that I have lived a long time and from all my years of experience in sport I have no hesitation in saying that table tennis forms friendships which last. In my recent inauguration of the Lofters Club I received totally unexpected help and encouragement from clubs not now in the North Region. I refer to my friends from Linacre, Burlington, Bath Street, Waterloo Dock and Anfield.

I would welcome suggestions as to which month in the present season the North Regional tournament should be run. Our friend Jack Lambert has renewed the offer of the fine facilities we enjoyed at the English Electric Club last season and which the many who took part in the tournament agreed made the journey well worth a little inconvenience.

League Loses Two Valued Friends

It is with regret that we have to record the death of two valued friends of the League in the persons of Capt. H. Pollitt and Mr. F. W. Lake.

Capt. Pollitt, who died in August, was our senior vice-president and for many years took a great interest in our affairs. His name is perpetuated by the cup, of which he was the donor, for the men's singles title in the Cheshire Open Championships. His elder daughter Anne (now Mrs. L. Bartholomew) was a former Liverpool champion, as also was his younger daughter Ivy (now Mrs. R. Crafter), who is still a playing member of the League.

Mr. Lake, who died at the beginning of this month, had been keenly interested in sport for many years. His cup, the F. W. Lake Cup, was presented for our men's singles regional championship. He was also for many years a member of the League Appeals Board.

But table tennis was Mr. Lake's second love. His main interest was association football. He had been connected with Marine F.C. for a long time and was for the past six years a director of Everton F.C.

We extend our deepest sympathy to the relatives of Capt. Pollitt and Mr. Lake.

KEENNESS WILL BE KEYNOTE

May I extend a hearty welcome to all those clubs and players whose first season it is in this Region, not forgetting the old stalwarts who have been with us for many seasons, and trust that you will all have many good social evenings as well as keenly fought games.

Once again both Divisions have a full complement of teams. Up to the time of going to press, I have not had an opportunity of seeing any of the clubs in action, but, from the composition of the First Division, I can well imagine that the competition is going to be very keen.

From my knowledge of the teams in the division I would say Beauclair, Linnets and Technical Students may be well to the fore.

In the Second Division, however, it is harder to speculate, until the strength of the new clubs has been assessed.

Send club news.

I shall do my best during the season to keep you posted with news of what is going on from month to month in the Region. This can only be done however, with the complete co-operation of the club secretaries. If you haven't time to write, a phone call to Lark Lane 1776 will suffice.

Let me have the news about your club tournaments, last match, social activities, etc., in fact anything that you think may be of interest to other clubs.

May I mention that there will be an inter-city match between

Liverpool Ladies and Blackpool Ladies, held in one of the South Region clubs, namely the Linnet Table Tennis Club on Friday, November 9. There is ample accommodation for all, and I sincerely hope you will make a very great effort to support this match. Your attendance will be very much appreciated, so book the date now.

This season will see the playing of the third South Region tournament and with players from clubs in the Fifth Division eligible to enter for this year only, we should have the biggest and best entry ever. But I do not want the fact that Fifth Division players will be entering to in any way discourage the younger players from our Second Division from competing, because, after all, the tournament was originally inaugurated with the idea of giving the younger and less experienced players an opportunity of getting used to tournament conditions and of improving their standard of play.

In conclusion may I encourage all members of the Region to make a big effort to maintain the improvement in play shown last season and may I make a strong appeal to all to obey strictly the service rule. Despite the fact that the season is still young I have already heard complaints of the rule being deliberately flouted. Obey it yourself and when you are umpiring see that others do likewise, even though they are members of your own club. In fact, if umpires all did this the whole question would soon be solved.

INTEREST KEENER THAN EVER

Once more we have entered the eagerly-awaited table tennis season, but with the reorganisation of the League into bigger—and we all hope better—divisions, the East Region, like the three other Regions, has undergone a great change so that the new look which the start of every season invariably brings, is even greater.

We have only one division to concern us now but I have no doubt that the interest will be even more than it was with two. Incidentally there is only one club with double representation in the Region, Bohemians.

So great has been the change in our personnel that he would indeed be a bold man who would dare to forecast which team will be on top at the end of the season—and quite frankly I am no bold man.

Four newcomers.

Only two of last season's First Division sides are still with us—African Oil and St. Bartholomew's—but they are certain to find stiff opposition from the five teams from the old Second Division who have joined them, namely Balfour "D"—like all the Balfour teams, a well balanced side—Bohemians "B" and "C," Osterley "A" and R.A.F. Association.

Added to them are four new clubs and the return of a former member. The new teams are R.A.F. Movements, Old Xaverians, Vagabonds and, familiar name, Anfield "C," and to all of them I extend a hearty welcome on behalf of all East Region teams and best wishes for

a good season, a wish that we can also offer to our old friends, Leyfield, whose re-appearance it is good to see.

Two of the highlights of last season were the victories of Balfour "C" in the finals of both the Hyde and Forrest Cups. The unusual feature of these two finals was that, in each case, Balfour beat the same finalists, Lucem. The result of both matches was six sets to four, which proves how evenly matched the two teams were.

Incidentally, the Hyde Cup had been held by the West Region for the previous five years. I am glad that it was an East Region side that broke that monopoly—thanks Balfour "C."

Now East Regioners, I am looking to you to keep hold of the cup, and of the Forrest Cup too, for the next five years, and, if possible, longer. I have no doubt that if Vagabonds play table tennis as well as they play lawn tennis, the Hyde and Forrest Cups are certain to remain with us.

And if Vagabonds should drop by the wayside, they won't mind my saying that I hope it's an East Region team which causes the fall.

In closing I appeal to all East Region secretaries to assist me in keeping everybody in the know with all the news, to send me any they may have to my home address. I cannot guarantee that it will be printed, but don't let that deter you. (We'll do our best for you—*Editors.*)

Good hunting, I will be here again next month with reports of matches and general comments.

Chatter in the Clubrooms

The election by the Management Committee of Mr. T. J. Wivell as a Vice-President of the League will be particularly pleasing to clubs and players in the Anfield and Clubmoor areas. Mr. Wivell is the father of Reg Wivell, founder and secretary until his death of the former SS. Simon's and Jude's Club from which the present Anfield has sprung.

In a very quiet way Mr. Wivell has been a generous supporter of table tennis for many years, although always preferring to perform his good works in the dark.

* *

At the end of one of the first league matches the visiting captain warned their opponents that in the return match the service rule would have to be adhered to strictly. "You got away with murder to-night, but we keep rigidly to the rule at our club" was the parting shot.

* *

Wednesday, September 26, was official opening night of the newly-formed Linnets Club, when the President, Mr. C. E. Bartholomew, performed the ceremony. He was supported by Mr. and Mrs. W. Stamp, Mr. and Mrs. F. J. Farrell, Miss M. Linder and Mr. G. Williams. Exhibitions were given by Eileen Mansell, Bluey May, Peter Rumjahn and Reg Hetherington, which we followed by refreshments and an impromptu dance.

* *

The Linnets aim to sing to some tune with their five teams, and their energetic secretary, Mrs. Sturgeon, is going to have plenty

to do. But past experience tells me she will not be found wanting and that visitors will receive a warm welcome and ideal playing conditions.

* *

Liverpool table tennis has lost, by his transfer, one of its personalities, Walter Gale. Walter, who is with the Ministry of Supply, was one of the founder members of the League, is now resident in Bristol. The move has broken a link with the League and the Domestic Mission club which had lasted for 25 years.

* *

Some people just can't keep away from table tennis, even during what is supposed to be a closed season. When Organising Secretary Bill Stamp and Vice-Chairman Jack Hughes were holidaying with their wives at Hastings, they heard that the Hastings Association were holding their annual meeting. Along went Messrs. Stamp and Hughes, to be welcomed by Mr. A. K. Vint, E.T.T.A. treasurer, who told the meeting that they now had with them Nark No. 1 to the National Council (Mr. Stamp) and Nark No. 1 to the Liverpool League Management Committee (Mr. Hughes). Such is fame.

* *

All members of the League will be sorry to hear of the continued illness of Mr. T. G. Brandreth, one of our two life members and former chairman of the League. All will join in wishing he will soon be well again.

WAITING FOR YOUNG PLAYERS

Once again we are on the threshold of another season and the old familiar problems of team selection are on us.

A brief survey of the playing strength would show the position to be similar to last season, namely teams strong enough to earn the respect of all opponents but not quite strong enough to hit the highlights. This may be due to the fact that we are still awaiting the younger players to make their mark and oust those who have given yeoman service since pre-war days.

Choosing the first team seldom presents any difficulty but the selection of the second team is a real headache. It is no exaggeration to say that there are about thirty players worthy of consideration and that with any three of these, I am sure the results obtained would show little difference.

Happy Bolton.

In the First Division of the Lancashire League the first team will be meeting the newly promoted Manchester "B" and Wigan in place of Bolton "B" and Blackpool, both of whom have been relegated. It would appear that once again the championship will go to either Manchester or Bolton.

Manchester are relying on their stars of last season and although Bolton will also rely on last season's players they are in the happy position of knowing that, due to the youthfulness of such players as Ellison, Booth and

Bolton, they will have no team worries for several seasons to come.

In the Second Division South, Liverpool have the distinction of being the only Lancashire team. This is perhaps appropriate as West Region players filled a large proportion of the places in the "B" team last season.

The battles with our rivals and neighbours, Ellesmere Port, will be intensified as their second team have gained promotion. At the end of the season the contenders for the title will probably be Ellesmere Port "A" and Liverpool "B."

In the Women's Division new ground will be broken with a visit to Bury, who won Division 2 last season. This will be the first time the teams have met and an interesting encounter is expected.

It goes without saying that the battles royal against Manchester and Blackpool will be continued and will be looked forward to when the women's game can be seen at its best.

Home fixtures to be played next month are:—

Nov. 9.—"B" v. Chester, at
R.A.F. Association,
Birkenhead.

Nov. 9.—Women v. Blackpool
at Linnet Club.

It is hoped that our home matches will be better attended this season. The standard of play is very good and apart from spending an enjoyable evening, there are many tips that budding champions can pick up.

League's First Ranking List

By J. D. Loughrey.

A week or two ago I was looking through the national table tennis magazine and came across one of the official ranking lists. This gave me the idea of making out a similar scheme for our own League.

Setting to work I collected a mass of facts, some of which showed that whereas A beat B three times last season and B had no trouble at all in beating C, the last-named player could always be relied upon to beat A. By degrees, however, an order of merit emerged from the mass, which was both interesting and highly illuminating.

My placings were based on two main factors—first, the general percentage of wins, and, second, placing high importance to a victory over a supposedly superior player, especially in tournaments. In doubtful cases the second point was allowed to take precedence when deciding a relative position.

Unofficial.

It is obviously quite impossible to expect universal agreement on such a controversial subject, but here is my estimate of the ranking of the leading women players in the League. It proved impossible to separate all the players demanding recognition, so after the first 20 the rest have been placed in three main groups, A, B, and C, in descending order of merit.

The placings are based on last season's matches and let me emphasise quite clearly that this is an entirely unofficial ranking and that all the brickbats should be hurled at my head alone. There will probably be quite a few!

In our next issue I hope to give a suggested order for the men players and may, during the season, be able to publish revised lists, taking into consideration the present season.

Women's ranking—1950-51.

- 1 A. Jones (Wallasey Y.M. Jrs.)
- 2 E. Mansell (Balfour).

- 3 K. May (Rafters).
- 4 L. May (Rafters).
- 5 O. Dickenson (Balfour).
- 6 J. Cook (Bibby's).
- 7 E. L. Moore (Oakhill).
- 8 L. Robinson (Balfour).
- 9 P. Lees (Homecroft).
- 10 A. Brunskill (Balfour).
- 11 O. Southall (Rafters).
- 12 M. Hadden (Aigburth).
- 13 D. Ball (Bibby's).
- 14 M. Alcock (Bohemians).
- 15 M. Rubert (Oakhill).
- 16 A. Allen (Balfour).
- 17 E. Campbell (Taxes).
- 18 G. Brown (Bibby's).
- 19 E. Baird (Burrowdale).
- 20 E. Jackson (Aigburth).

Group A.—M. Evans (Balfour), I. Crafter (Cadwa), S. Farrell (Oakhill), L. Jenkins (Bootle C.D.), R. McMullen (Rafters), E. Palmer (Wavertree C.C.), N. Wass (Aigburth), B. Ward (Anfield) and M. Willcox (Osterley).

Group B.—D. Alcock (Aigburth), L. Allen (Littlewoods), M. Baron (Bibby's), A. Bell (Littlewoods), M. Foster (Claremont), D. Hogg (Bibby's), I. Howley (Balfour), A. Keightley (C.L.C.), N. Murphy (Homecroft), K. Rumjahn (Rafters), S. Langley (Creep Inn), P. O'Connell (Thorndale), M. Swindells (Rafters), I. Sturgeons (Aigburth), A. Richards (Aigburth), E. Royal (Aigburth), L. Upton (Bootle C.D.), and B. Waterson (Bootle C.D.)

Group C.—P. Alcock (Aigburth), E. Cuble (Aigburth), M. Cross (Anfield), D. Dancaster (Oakhill), R. Garner (C.L.C.), M. Green (C.L.C.), J. Keen (Homecroft), N. Lamb (Anfield), M. Patterson (Domestic Mission), M. Pattison (Rafters), B. Pealing (Wavertree C.C.), D. Millington (Littlewoods), L. Rimmer (Bibby's), E. Sinclair (Littlewoods), M. Yates (Aigburth), P. Grundy (Rafters), E. Banks (Homecroft), and S. Swanwick (Rafters).

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These are your Letters

Playing Conditions

Sir:—At the last League meeting for club secretaries the Management Committee made it clear that the rules of the League will be strictly enforced this coming season—an admirable policy with which I fully agree.

It is a great pity, therefore, that in the reorganisation of the Divisions and Regions several clubs, who have poor playing conditions, have been promoted to the higher Divisions. Surely, in a League of this size, the Management Committee are in a position to insist on Bill Stamp's theme of quality rather than quantity.

After all, we play the game to enjoy it, but when visiting the clubs I have in mind, where no visible attempt has been made to improve conditions since the war, it becomes a matter of enduring it.

So, if we are getting strict, I would suggest that the Management Committee earn the thanks of the majority of Clubs by cleaning up the minority.

One more point on another topic—why were numerous Secretaries allowed to leave the Meeting whilst a League official was still addressing them and without a single request for permission to do so?—K. JONES (Bohemians).

Coaching School

Sir:—It is well-known that there are very few qualified coaches in the Liverpool League. It is equally well-known that it is quite expensive to be coached privately and that the league coaching scheme is strictly limited

Why not therefore coach some coaches? It should not be necessary to be a top-line player to be a coach—it does not apply in other spheres.

May I suggest a coaching school with a coaching manual at which a representative from each club would be given a course in coaching, and, at the conclusion, be graded as Liverpool League coach first-class, second-class or third-class.

The main advantage of that would, of course, be that each club would have at least one person who could pass on the knowledge gained. The not-so-expert coaches could recommend their most promising pupils for higher grade coaching, until the class for experts was reached.

I submit that as a rough plan, the details of which would need to be worked out, but I would like to hear the views of a Regional club, for instance. Do you think one of your members could become a coach and gain sufficient knowledge to improve your club's play? Or is the whole scheme impracticable?—E. CAMERON (Victoria Park).

Editors:—Mr. Cameron's proposal is something of a local version of the E.T.T.A. coaching school for coaches which Teddy Rumjahn attended during the summer. Opinions on its possible efficacy we will leave to others.

—:o:—

Cosco have had new steam heating installed and are having new seating put in which will accommodate about sixty spectators.